

Town of Burrillville Fire Districts

Meeting Minutes for May 19, 2015

1. Call to Order:

Michael Gingell (Harrisville Fire Department) acted as Moderator and called the meeting to order at 6:21 PM and started with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following representatives from each district were present:

John Polacek – Harrisville Operating Committee

Dave Place – Harrisville Operating Committee

Gerry Lapierre – Nasonville Operating Committee

Leah Joyal – Oakland/Mapleville Operating Committee

Robert Howe – Chief, Nasonville

Mark St. Pierre – Chief, Harrisville

Others in attendance:

Janet Raymond – Nasonville Fire District

2. Name for Committee

Group decided that the name for the committee representing the fire districts would be Coalition of Burrillville Fire Districts.

3. Update Regarding Contact with Local State Representatives

October 27, 2015 was selected as the tentative date for the informal meeting between representatives of the fire district operating committees, fire chiefs and hose and fire company designees and the local state representatives. Mike Gingell will contact Uncle Ronnie's restaurant to get a price for renting the downstairs room and hors d'oeuvres. Representatives on this committee will go back to their respective districts and discuss splitting the cost among the districts represented. It was decided by a 3-2 vote not to ask a designee from the Town Council to attend.

4. Discussion Regarding Recruitment and Retention

The two Chiefs in attendance gave an update regarding recruitment and retention. Chief St. Pierre indicated that a final determination had not been made yet regarding the SAFER grant that some of the local fire districts were involved in trying to secure. He also indicated that change in by-laws should be made if there are restrictions in place regarding per diem employees being allowed to join the fire company as volunteers. Chief Howe indicated that 4 new volunteers had been signed up and that as many shifts as possible were being staffed in order to roll out the trucks when calls come in.

Mike Gingell mentioned that the Burrillville Family Fair was being held on June 20th and that the fire companies were working as a group and setting up one booth rather than separate booths as had been done in the past. This way, all departments will have a representative on hand to answer questions if a resident of a particular district is looking for information. Kevin Deschamps is the representative for Harrisville.

Chief St. Pierre expressed the opinion that all districts need to bring their level of EMS coverage up to the same level as the districts that currently have 24/7 coverage.

Short of consolidation, the districts are doing what they can to provide adequate coverage and to respond to all calls that come in for assistance.

5. Set Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 22, 2015 at 6:15 PM at the Jesse Smith Memorial Library in Harrisville, RI.

Miscellaneous

A discussion was held regarding the time being spent by the clerk for the Nasonville Fire district in regards to attending these meetings as well as preparing and posting agendas and meeting minutes. Representatives from each district will go back to their respective boards and discuss the cost of splitting a stipend.

6. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:41 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine A. Chretien
Nasonville Fire District Clerk